

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:431
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2003
FAULTY WHEELS
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the quality control mechanism in Railways to reject all sub-standard material bought by the Railways;
- (b) whether the Railways are aware that faulty wheels are using for their coaches;
- (c) if so, the reasons for not rejecting sub-standard items supplied by contractors;
- (d) whether Railways plan to launch an intensive survey to identify and reject faulty wheels presently being used; and
- (e) the steps proposed by Railways in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL)

- (a): Quality control is through stage inspection by Rail India Technical and Economic Services and elaborate procedure exists to ensure that no substandard material is accepted.
- (b): No faulty wheels are in service. Owing to improper quality control at manufacturer, some wheels have failed while nearing end of their service life. However, as a result of a drive undertaken by the Railways, all suspect wheels have been removed from service.
- (c): Does not arise.
- (d): As an added precaution, Railways plan an intensive survey of all wheels nearing end of service life to weed out those wheels which show signs of fatigue.
- (e): Railway Workshops have been advised to check thoroughly all such wheels by non destructive tests viz. ultrasonic testing of the wheel rims, carbon percentage of the composition of steel and inspection of the wheels to the relevant Research Designs and Standards Organization standard.